

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Foreign Crops and MARKETS



VOLUME 58

NUMBER 5

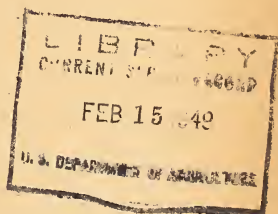
World Summaries:

CORN (Page 63)

COTTON (Page 71)

DRIED PEACHES (Page 66)

DRIED PEARS (Page 69)



LATEST NEWS

CONTENTS

	Page
COTTON AND OTHER FIBER	
World Cotton Production Revised Slightly Forward.....	71
Cotton-Price Quotations on Foreign Markets.....	82
FATS AND OILS	
The Vegetable Shortening Situation in Colombia.....	74
Netherlands Indies Copra Exports Show Gain in 1948....	77
Uruguayan Government Sets Price for 1948-49 Flaxseed..	79
FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS	
World Dried Peach Production Again Declines.....	66
World Dried Pear Production Continues to Decrease.....	69
GRAIN, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS	
World Corn Crop Still Placed at Record Level.....	63
TOBACCO	
Hungary's 1948 Tobacco Acreage and Production Exceed	
Previous Imports and Exports Increase.....	79
Hong Kong Increases Import Duties on Tobacco.....	80
Estimates of 1948-49 Tobacco Production in Southern	
Africa Reduced.....	80

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JANUARY 31, 1949

Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

The latest estimate of olive oil production in Portugal for 1948-49 is 21,100 short tons, only 21 percent of the 1947-48 production and the poorest yield since 1930-31.

- - - - -

The British Ministry of Food announced that effective January 30, the bacon ration would be restored to 2 ounces per week. This improvement is due to nearly normal deliveries from Canada. The falling off of meat deliveries under the Andes (U.K. - Argentine) Agreement, has compelled the Government to reduce the carcass meat ration from 1 shilling (20.2 cents) to 10 pennyworth (16.8 cents) and the difference is to be replaced by 2 pennyworth (3.36 cents) of canned corned meat. This action was resorted to last year on March 21, but this year the change had to be applied from January 23. Nevertheless, the meat situation is improving slowly through the gradual increase of home supplies and imports from Australia, New Zealand and Eire.

- - - - -

WORLD CORN CROP STILL PLACED AT RECORD LEVEL

World corn production in 1948-49 is now estimated at about 6 billion bushels, slightly larger than the November preliminary forecast, according to information gathered by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

A large part of the net change from the earlier forecast was due to the increased outturn in the United States. Prospects improved also for the South American crop, to be harvested beginning in March. These upward changes more than offset a reduction in the estimate for Asia. The all-time record corn crop in the United States is large enough to bring the world crop up to a new record, despite below-average production in most other areas.

The estimated total production of 3.8 billion bushels of corn in North America is about 55 percent above the 1935-39 average. The United States harvest of 3.7 billion bushels for all purposes compares with the previous high of 3.2 billion bushels in 1946, and is about 50 percent above the small 1947 harvest. The quality of the grain is high, and a relatively high percentage was harvested as grain. Yields averaged 42.7 bushels per acre, far exceeding the previous record of 36.7 bushels per acre in 1946 and were 17.7 bushels above the average yields during 1935-39. Present high yields were mainly attributed to very favorable growing conditions and to the very high percentage of hybrid varieties grown in the high-yielding corn belt. Canada's corn crop, never important in the over-all grain production of that country, was 12.4 million bushels of shelled corn compared with 7.0 million during the average period and 6.7 million in 1947.

The corn crop in Europe is estimated at about 670 million bushels. This is slightly below the 1935-39 average, principally because of a net decline in the corn acreage. Yields in the important producing Balkan countries and Italy were near average.

Both acreage and production of corn in the Soviet Union were estimated to be substantially below the prewar level.

Production in Asia is placed at 595 million bushels, slightly below average and also smaller than in 1947. The acreage was somewhat smaller than last year, though slightly above the 1935-39 level. The production in China, now officially estimated at 260 million bushels, is somewhat below the first estimate. Present estimates show slightly below-average yields, compared with earlier forecasts of larger than average yields.

In Africa the crop is now estimated at 245 million bushels, about 5 percent below average and considerably less than the good harvest of a year ago. This reduction from earlier forecasts is caused by deterioration of prospects in the Union of South Africa, where a severe drought is reported to have damaged the growing corn. That crop is expected to be below average and sharply below the record production in April-May 1948.

(Continued on Page 83)

CORN: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, average 1935-39 annual, 1946-48 a/

Continent and country	Average b/ acre			Yield per acre c/ Average			Production		
	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	1946	1947	1948 d/ 1935-39	1946	1947	1948 e/ 1935-39
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Guatemala.....	172	-	-	252	-	49.3	15,700	10,661	12,417
Honduras.....	258	-	-	-	-	-	15,700	-	-
Mexico.....	7,501	8,187	8,678	9,197	9.0	11.4	67,523	93,799	111,487
Nicaragua.....	86	123	173	190	16.1	15.5	1,980	2,687	3,100
United States.....	92,699	88,489	83,932	85,432	25.0	28.4	42,712,315,554	3,249,950	3,650,548
Cuba.....	160	400	410	550	16.7	14.6	6,250	6,000	8,500
Estimated total f/.....	103,230	100,450	96,350	-	-	-	12,444,000	1,405,000	1,832,000
EUROPE									
Albania.....	235	250	-	-	21.6	22.0	5,067	5,000	5,500
Austria.....	163	-	-	-	-	-	6,384	-	-
Bulgaria.....	2,071	1,791	-	-	17.5	9.8	35,657	17,566	35,000
Czechoslovakia.....	355	340	285	-	28.6	20.6	11,300	7,000	6,000
France.....	839	603	675	680	26.9	16.6	23,559	10,000	9,000
Germany.....	85	-	-	-	47.1	13.3	14,000	-	-
Greece.....	650	651	618	631	15.5	17.6	10,078	7,900	10,866
Hungary.....	2,925	2,900	3,100	-	31.5	23.5	95,007	53,680	73,000
Italy.....	3,553	3,520	3,590	3,590	27.1	28.1	112,752	86,900	102,000
Portugal.....	937	1,340	1,090	1,175	13.1	12.3	13,083	16,500	14,107
Romania.....	9,870	-	-	-	17.4	-	172,000	-	-
Spain.....	1,066	915	990	1,050	26.7	20.2	28,953	20,802	20,000
Tugoslavia.....	6,615	-	-	-	26.7	-	176,600	-	-
Estimated total f/.....	29,570	26,550	29,980	28,540	-	-	593,000	400,000	675,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)....	10,000	6,500	7,200	-	17.0	17.4	170,000	80,000	125,000
ASIA									
Turkey.....	1,098	1,260	1,397	1,272	20.9	14.9	22,971	23,417	20,873
Burma.....	217	-	-	-	7.6	-	1,640	-	23,621
China.....	12,000	12,483	12,296	12,276	21.8	21.5	262,000	275,000	264,696
Manchuria.....	3,720	-	-	-	23.3	-	86,586	-	-
French Indochina.....	1,019	-	-	-	20.8	-	21,168	-	-
India f/.....	6,450	6,830	6,700	6,700	12.9	11.6	83,000	88,000	78,000
Japan.....	128	126	-	24.2	13.0	24.0	3,094	2,551	3,000
Korea.....	321	-	-	-	20.2	-	4,177	-	-
Java and Madura.....	5,150	-	-	-	15.5	-	70,976	-	-
Philippine Islands.....	1,955	1,411	2,007	2,100	8.6	11.1	16,857	13,201	22,234
Estimated total f/.....	44,200	36,160	37,520	34,530	-	-	611,000	626,000	595,000

AFRICA:														
Belgian Congo.....e/	179:	-	-	-	27.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000:	-	-
Kenya f/.....	108:	-	-	-	31.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,125:	2,976:	-
Basutoland.....	350:	-	-	-	8.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,822:	1,486:	-
Egypt.....	1,599:	1,761:	1,600:	-	39.5	32.6	24.4	-	-	-	-	63,229:	55,980:	-
French Morocco.....	1,112:	1,228:	1,265:	1,344:	7.6	7.0	7.9	-	-	-	-	8,505:	8,586:	13,287
French West Africa.....e/	1,732:	-	-	-	12.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,472:	-	-
Madagascar.....	260:	222:	-	-	15.3	10.0	-	-	-	-	-	3,969:	2,213:	-
Angola.....	1,427:	-	-	-	9.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,084:	11,000:	12,000:
Southern Rhodesia f/.....	286:	252:	335:	-	22.1	12.5	21.3	-	-	-	-	5,982:	3,161:	7,143:
Union of South Africa.....	6,369:	7,793:	7,750:	-	11.5	11.4	14.5	-	-	-	-	80,132:	86,900:	112,186:
Estimated total f/.....	18,490:	19,450:	19,540:	19,660:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	299,000:	250,000:	278,000:
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina.....	10,775:	6,431:	6,591:	-	28.0	35.6	39.4	-	-	-	-	301,986:	228,924:	260,000:
Brazil.....	10,025:	10,342:	-	-	21.5	20.6	-	-	-	-	-	215,153:	213,058:	219,673:
Chile.....	110:	116:	119:	-	22.7	23.2	24.5	-	-	-	-	2,496:	2,689:	2,921:
Colombia.....	1,361:	1,651:	1,680:	-	15.1	14.8	15.2	-	-	-	-	19,999:	24,408:	25,569:
Uruguay.....	521:	391:	509:	-	9.8	11.5	11.8	-	-	-	-	5,188:	4,514:	6,023:
Estimated total f/.....	25,030:	21,300:	21,090:	20,910:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	576,000:	509,000:	550,000:
OCEANIA														
Australia.....	314:	260:	224:	-	22.4	22.3	27.9	-	-	-	-	7,030:	5,808:	6,245:
New Zealand.....	7:	8:	7:	-	45.4	49.6	54.0	-	-	-	-	318:	397:	378:
Total.....	321:	268:	331:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,348:	6,205:	6,623:
Estimated world total f/.....	220,820:	210,680:	212,020:	210,380:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,750,000:	5,276,000:	4,817,000:

a/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1948 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which will begin early in 1949. b/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. c/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. d/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, preliminary forecasts. e/ Average of less than 5 years. f/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. g/ Figure for 1935 only. h/ Includes Pakistan. Estimates for reporting areas only. i/ European cultivated only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

WORLD DRIED PEACH PRODUCTION AGAIN DECLINES

The 1948 preliminary estimate of dried peach production in the United States, Argentina, Australia, Chile, and the Union of South Africa, the leading commercial producing countries is 13,400 short tons, compared with 22,700 tons (revised) in 1947 and 31,400 tons in 1946.

This represents a 52 percent decrease from the 5-year (1942-46) average of 28,200 tons and a 50 percent decrease from the 10-year (1937-46) average of 27,000 tons. The output in Australia showed a modest increase but that in all other foreign countries decreased except Chile which remained the same. The United States, the world's largest dried peach producer, showed a heavy decline for the second consecutive year. The world production during 1948 was the smallest in more than a quarter of a century. The small production in the United States is largely responsible for pulling the world total downward.

PEACHES, dried: Estimated commercial production in specified countries, averages 1942-46 and 1937-46, annual 1941-48

Year	: Argentina	: Australia	: Chile	: Union of South Africa	: Foreign total	: United States	: Total
	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons
<u>Averages</u>							
1942-46	: 2,900	: 500	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 5,400	: 22,800	: 28,200
1937-46	: 2,300	: 500	: 1,200	: 800	: 4,800	: 22,200	: 27,000
<u>Annual</u>							
1941	: 2,800	: 600	: 1,100	: 300	: 4,800	: 14,900	: 19,700
1942	: 400	: 400	: 1,300	: 700	: 2,800	: 23,200	: 26,000
1943	: 4,300	: 400	: 900	: 1,100	: 6,700	: 16,400	: 23,100
1944	: 2,500	: 500	: 1,000	: 1,300	: 5,300	: 26,700	: 32,000
1945	: 3,200	: 600	: 800	: 900	: 5,500	: 22,800	: 28,300
1946	: 4,300	: 500	: 800	: 800	: 6,400	: 25,000	: 31,400
1947 a/	: b/ 3,500	: 400	: 900	: 900	: b/ 5,700	: b/ 17,000	: b/ 22,700
1948 a/	: 3,300	: 700	: 900	: 800	: 5,600	: c/ 7,800	: 13,400

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised. c/ Unofficial.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research or other information.

The small world pack of dried peaches in 1948 was not due to the size of the fresh peach crop but rather to the disappointing 1946-47 marketing season in most countries. Growers and packers sold more fruit in fresh markets and diverted more to canners during 1948. As the new pack reached the markets in 1948 there were no carry-over stocks reported in the foreign countries. Disposal of the 1948 production in the foreign countries had generally turned to the prewar pattern, namely,

UNITED STATES: Exports of peaches, dried, to specified countries,
1947-48 with comparisons a/

Country of destination	Average		Annual					
	1937/38- 1946/47	1942/43- 1946/47	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49 <u>b/</u>
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
France	231	50	0	251	c/	c/	c/	0
Germany	17	c/	0	0	c/	0	c/	1,744
United Kingdom	3,277	5,706	5,097	10,630	c/	9,276	44	0
Denmark	85	c/	0	0	0	c/	1	0
Sweden	177	144	120	0	c/	598	0	0
Italy	103	198	63	395	530	0	20	3
Netherlands	60	c/	0	0	c/	2	4	28
Belgium	103	178	0	757	75	56	66	13
Norway	13	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other Europe	65	40	46	5	130	22	22	1
Total Europe	4,131	6,316	5,326	12,038	735	9,954	158	1,789
Canada	461	404	136	79	32	1,496	79	10
Other countries	847	1,330	1,874	769	1,329	1,227	1,185	40
Total	5,439	8,050	7,336	12,886	2,096	12,677	1,422	1,839

a/ Crop year basis, July-June.

b/ Five months, July-November, 1948.

c/ Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

domestic sales first, with small exports of remaining stocks to neighboring countries.

Australia exported 81 tons during the season of which 38 tons were sent to New Guinea; 22 tons to New Zealand, 19 to Japan and the balance in shipments of less than a ton to other British areas. There were no restrictions on the exportation or sales of dried peaches during 1948. The domestic market absorbed over 600 tons without difficulty. Export data for Argentina are not yet available, but small sales to neighboring South American countries have been reported. The bulk of the pack was disposed of in the domestic market with returns to growers somewhat discouraging.

The export situation with regard to the 1948 Chilean pack was a little better. During the season some 206 short tons were exported, of which 188 tons were pitted and the balance unpitted. Uruguay was the most important purchaser of the 1948 pack, taking 170 tons of the total. It is significant that while Argentina produced nearly 4 times as many dried peaches as Chile yet 9 tons were sent from Chile to Argentina during the year, which was somewhat surprising in view of the slow market in Argentina. A few hundred pounds were exported to Germany and the United Kingdom and the balance of the season's exports were sold as usual in Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. Domestic consumption of dried peaches in Chile was estimated at about 800 tons.

The marketing of the dried peach pack in the Union of South Africa was rather slow during the year, but the domestic market and neighboring British areas finally took the entire lot. It is doubtful whether permits for export of peaches will be issued during 1949.

The export market for United States dried peaches during the 1947-48 marketing year was the poorest since 1940-41 when only 802 tons were exported. Exports during 1947-48 totalled 1,422 tons, of which only 158 tons were to European countries, compared with a normal prewar export to Europe of 2,300 tons. The 1947-48 exports were the second smallest in the past quarter of a century. The poor export market is largely responsible for the extremely small pack in 1948. The 1948-49 season to the end of November 1948 shows exports of 1,839 tons. This figure is a little misleading since a total of 1,744 tons were exported to Western Germany. During this period the only other European countries acquiring United States dried peaches were Holland 28 tons, Belgium 13 tons and Switzerland 1 ton.

The Canadian market, which, during the 1935-39 period averaged 773 tons and an all time high of 1,496 tons in 1946-47 has become temporarily a very minor outlet. During the 1947-48 season only 79 tons were exported to Canada, and only 10 tons during the first half of the present season. The shortage of United States dollars in Canada has prevented the normal flow of United States dried fruits to that country. Exports

(Continued on Page 84)

WORLD DRIED PEAR PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO DECREASE

The 1948 preliminary estimate of dried-pear production in the 4 leading commercial producing countries, the United States, Argentina, Australia and the Union of South Africa, is 2,600 short tons, compared with 5,400 tons (revised) in 1947 and 7,900 tons in 1946.

The 1948 crop was the smallest in more than a quarter of a century for the world and one of the lowest on record for the United States in an even longer period. The present estimate is only 39 percent of the 5-year (1942-46) average of 6,700 tons and 40 percent of the 10-year (1937-46) average of 6,500 tons.

The Argentine pack in 1948 for the first time in history exceeded that of the United States. Declines in output were reported in all countries with the largest decline being in the United States.

PEARS, dried: Estimated world commercial production,
1948 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Argentina	Australia	Union of South Africa	Foreign total	United States	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
<u>Average</u>						
1937-46	900	400	600	1,900	4,600	6,500
1942-46	1,200	400	900	2,500	4,200	6,700
<u>Annual</u>						
1942	600	300	1,400	2,300	2,700	5,000
1943	800	400	1,300	2,500	4,200	6,700
1944	1,000	500	500	2,000	a/ 4,000	a/ 6,000
1945	900	400	1,000	2,300	5,500	7,800
1946	2,700	300	300	3,300	4,600	7,900
1947 b/	1,900	a/ 400	a/ 600	a/ 2,900	2,500	a/ 5,400
1948 b/	1,000	200	500	1,700	c/ 900	2,600

a/ Revised. b/ Preliminary. c/ Unofficial.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U. S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research or other information.

The declines in production of dried pears in Argentina and the United States were largely the result of the poor export markets in 1947-48.

The declines in the other countries were the result of an anticipated slower domestic market. The entire 1948 pack in the 3 Southern Hemisphere countries was disposed of within a matter of a few months, largely in the domestic market. Australia did manage to export 119 short tons, of which 48 tons went to the United Kingdom, 23 tons each to Eire and New Zealand, 16 tons to Palestine, and the balance to British possessions. Argentina's exports are reported to have been small, but data are not available.

United States exports during the 1947-48 season totalled only 391 short tons of which European countries were the destination for only 104 tons, Canada 5 tons and all other countries 282 tons. It was the poorest export season in more than a quarter of a century. The second poorest season was 1940-41 when only 434 tons were exported.

UNITED STATES: Exports of pears, dried, to specified countries, 1947-48 with comparisons a/

Country of destination:	Average: 1937/38-1942/43	Average: 1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	1945/47	1946/47					b/
	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons	Short : tons
Germany	19	1	0	2	2	0	0
France	217	0	0	0	0	0	43
United Kingdom	633	486	666	1,491	0	65	0
Netherlands	205	9	0	0	0	45	12
Norway	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Denmark	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	140	1	1	0	c/	2	0
Belgium	103	64	0	265	11	43	1
Italy	59	115	1	495	79	0	21
Other Europe:	93	35	1	10	131	34	26
Total Europe	1,490	711	669	2,263	223	189	104
Canada	98	93	16	63	88	242	5
Other countries:	408	572	1,324	242	257	195	282
Total	1,996	1,376	2,009	2,568	568	626	391

a/ Crop-year basis, September-August. b/ 3 months, September-November.

c/ Less than one-half ton.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

(Continued on Page 84)

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION REVISED SLIGHTLY DOWNWARD

World cotton production in 1948-49 is now estimated at 29,200,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross), a reduction of 550,000 bales from the preliminary estimate released in October 1948. A crop of this size would be 15 percent above the 1947-48 production of 25,300,000 bales and not much less than production in late prewar years with the exception of the all-time record crop in 1937-38 of 39 million bales. World production exceeds expected world consumption this year for the first time since the war. Most of the increased production in 1948-49 took place in the United States.

The 1948-49 production in a number of major producing countries is lower than reported in Foreign Crops and Markets of October 25, 1948. The United States crop, now estimated at 14,937,000 bales, is 142,000 bales less than the estimate reported at that time. Acreage was revised to 23,003,000 acres from the previous estimate of 23,323,000 acres.

The 1948-49 crop in India has been reduced to 2,050,000 bales as a result of drought in the Gujerat and Kathiawar and of excessive and unseasonable rains in Central India. In Argentina the crop prospect has declined since planting time and is now estimated at 369,000 bales. In the U.S.S.R. harvesting was delayed and the crop is now given at 2,500,000 bales. These declines were partly offset by improvement of 100,000 bales in China to 2,300,000; in Egypt from 1,722,000 to 1,772,000; and in Uganda from 250,000 to 292,000.

Cotton production in the Western Hemisphere was maintained during World War II well above the prewar level, while in China, Korea, south-eastern Europe, India, and Egypt it was reduced by acreage restrictions in favor of food crops. In the first 2 postwar years (1945-46 and 1946-47) declines took place in the United States, Brazil, and Argentina, and were due largely to shortages of labor and unfavorable weather in all three countries. World production in those years amounted to only 77 percent and 79 percent respectively of the wartime (1940-41 to 1944-45) average of 27,365,000 bales. In the next 2 years, 1947-48 and 1948-49, a sharp rise in United States production was accompanied by a more moderate increase in Egypt, the Soviet Union, China, Mexico, and in a few of the smaller producing areas.

The trend in foreign production has been upward since the war but no very marked changes in 1949-50 from the 1948-49 estimates can be foreseen at this time except in Egypt. Cotton acreage restrictions there, as announced by the Government, have now been relaxed to permit the planting of 1,783,000 acres in 1949. This is 287,000 above the 1948 estimate and only 38,000 acres less than the prewar average of 1,821,000. Efforts are being made to increase production in Brazil, Argentina, India, Pakistan, and the Soviet Union. The extent of success in Brazil and Argentina will be determined largely by weather conditions. Shortages

(Continued on Page 83)

SOUTH AFRICA:

Argentina.....	770:	813:	892: h/	1,037: h/	1,170:	289:	285:	334:	395:	369
Brazil.....	5,562:	5,000:	5,500:	4,600:	5,500:	1,956:	1,350:	1,300:	1,170:	1,400
Colombia.....	98:	-	-	-	-	23:	21:	21:	21:	29
Ecuador.....	40:	32:	35:	-	-	13:	7:	10:	10:	7
Paraguay.....	111:	124:	126:	74: h/	140:	40:	44:	55:	40:	40
Peru.....	428:	346:	300:	321:	346:	384:	329:	299:	275:	325
Venezuela.....	50:	-	-	-	-	11:	13:	11:	10:	10
Total g/.....	7,060:	6,512:	7,049:	6,239:	7,373:	2,776:	2,049:	2,090:	1,914:	2,181
AFRICA AND OCEANIA:										
Anglo Egyptian Sudan.....	439:	321:	336:	363:	-	248:	194:	235:	215:	225
Belgian Congo.....	874:	760:	740:	754:	-	172:	181:	172:	184:	190
Kenya.....	-	-	-	28: h/	43:	13:	4:	4:	4:	9
Nyasaland.....	84:	-	-	-	-	12:	8:	9:	11:	-
Tanganyika.....	-	-	-	-	-	50:	34:	34:	42:	50
Uganda.....	1,477:	1,146:	1,253:	1,037:	1,551:	281:	191:	193:	141:	292
Egypt.....	1,821:	1,020:	1,258:	1,302:	1,496:	1,893:	1,082:	1,252:	1,314:	1,772
French Equatorial Africa.....	390:	-	-	-	-	41:	106:	74:	115:	-
French Morocco.....	1:	4:	-	-	-	d/:	2:	2:	-	-
French West Africa.....	-	-	-	-	-	28:	9:	9:	14:	-
Mozambique.....	-	-	-	-	-	33:	99:	110:	101:	-
Nigeria.....	-	-	-	-	-	31:	31:	28:	35:	50
Angola.....	73:	-	-	-	-	13:	20:	27:	24:	23
Southern Rhodesia.....	2:	4:	4:	4:	4:	d/:	1:	1:	1:	1
Union of South Africa.....	-	-	-	-	-	2:	d/:	1:	2:	5
Australia.....	53:	7:	8:	8:	-	11:	2:	2:	2:	-
Total g/.....	6,176:	5,234:	5,495:	5,217:	6,026:	2,840:	1,966:	2,156:	2,210:	2,865
World total g/.....	81,142:	54,632:	56,720:	59,980:	64,875:	31,676:	21,110:	21,525:	25,300:	29,200

g/ United States production in bales of 500 pounds gross weight (480 pounds net); others in bales of 478 pounds net through 1945 and 480 pounds thereafter. h/ Years shown refer to years of harvest. i/ Preliminary. d/ Less than 500. g/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. f/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. g/ Included with India. h/ Planted area. i/ Exports.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics, reports of United States Foreign Service officers and results of office research.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILSTHE VEGETABLE SHORTENING
SITUATION IN COLOMBIA 1/Domestic Processing:

Seven vegetable oil processing plants are now in operation in Colombia, and 2 new factories are reported under construction. The total 24 -hour capacity of the 7 existing plants is estimated at 100.9 short tons of vegetable shortening. The total capacity for production of vegetable shortening would be about 30,000 tons for the year. Actual production in 1947 amounted to 11,757 tons and the 5-year (1941-45) average was 7,500 tons. Thus there is considerable room for expansion as consumer demand grows and as raw materials, imported or domestic, become more available.

Production of Raw Materials:

Domestic raw materials to produce 5,176 tons of oil were bought by processing plants in 1947. This compares with an annual average of 4,246 tons for the 5-year (1941-45) period, and 2,402 tons for the 1936-40 period. Chief among the raw materials purchased were cottonseed, sesame, copra, and miscellaneous palm nuts.

COLOMBIA: Domestic copra, palm nuts, and oilseeds purchased by vegetable shortening factories, 1947 with comparisons.

Year	: Cottonseed	: Sesame	: Copra	: Tamaco and Palma de Vino	: Noli	: Total	: Total oil content
	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons	: Short tons
Average	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1936-40.	6,349	402	1,505	161	151	8,568	2,402
1941	7,287	1,010	1,445	109	259	10,110	2,790
1942	5,660	3,276	2,427	53	170	11,497	4,004
1943	10,090	4,042	2,517	252	157	17,058	5,228
1944	9,147	1,394	4,591	278	121	15,531	5,375
1945	5,539	1,383	3,069	509	-	10,500	3,786
1946	6,154	2,948	2,561	677	-	12,340	4,258
1947	7,028	3,816	2,535	1,440	228	15,047	5,176

American Embassy, Bogota, Colombia.

1/ Based in part upon a report by Kenneth Wernimont, Agricultural Attache, and John G. Gossett, Third, Secretary, American Embassy, Bogota.

Cottonseed. In 1947, Colombian factories bought 7,028 tons of domestic cottonseed, from a total cottonseed production of about 9,920 tons.

During the years 1943 and 1944, when imports of copra and other fats were severely restricted because of the war, the factories purchased unusually large quantities of domestic cottonseed. These purchases amounted to 10,090 tons in 1943 and 9,147 in 1944. Thus the 5-year (1941-45) average was 7,544 tons, which slightly exceeds the amount purchased in 1947. Nevertheless, the general trend is upward as indicated by comparing the average of 6,349 tons purchased during the 5-year (1936-40) period.

Sesame. Since 1942, sesame has been the second most important domestic raw material used by Colombia's vegetable shortening factories. There is a growing interest in this crop and production is increasing substantially from year to year. Oil factory purchases of sesame seed in 1947 rose to 3,816 tons. This is the highest quantity recorded except in 1943 when 4,042 tons were purchased. The 5-year (1941-45) average was 2,221 tons.

Copra. Colombia has a number of areas in which coconut palms flourish. Vegetable shortening factories are buyers of both copra and coconuts and provide a major outlet for the commercial production. Some quantities are also used by soap factories in Cartagena and Barranquilla.

Vegetable shortening factories bought 2,535 tons of domestic copra in 1947. This indicates some increase over previous years, except in 1944 when 4,591 tons were delivered to factories. The 1941-1945 yearly average was 2,810 tons, or nearly double the 1936-40 average of 1,505 tons.

Miscellaneous Palms. Colombia has a wide variety of oilbearing palm nuts. One is the Noli (*Corozo oleifera*), a species which resembles the African oil palm. Vegetable shortening factories purchased 228 tons of Noli nuts in 1947. The largest recorded purchases were 269 tons in 1940 and 259 in 1941. Factory purchases were virtually suspended in 1945 and 1946.

Another group of palms, largely of the species *Scheelea butyracea*, is known locally as palma de vino. Purchases of these palm nuts by factories amounted to 1,440 tons in 1947. Purchases in 1946 amounted to 677 tons. In earlier years the quantities were much smaller.

Import Requirements:

Colombian vegetable oil factories are accustomed to working with copra. They buy other materials, such as Ecuadoran palm kernels and Brazilian babassu, and they would, of course, be willing to consider other materials if priced cheaper than copra.

According to preliminary figures furnished by the National Supply Institute, Colombia's 1947 copra importations amounted to 13,333 tons. During the first 9 months of 1948, importations amounted to 7,070 tons.

COLOMBIA: Imports of copra, 1948 with comparisons

Year	:	Imports
	:	<u>Short tons</u>
1938	:	6,377
1939	:	8,589
1940	:	7,355
1941	:	9,852
1942	:	1,587
1943	:	860
1944	:	554
1945	:	468
1946	:	-
1947	:	13,333 $\frac{1}{2}$
1948	:	13,228 $\frac{1}{2}$

1/ Preliminary estimates.

American Embassy, Bogota, Colombia.

Consumption Trends:

The demand for vegetable cooking fats is increasing steadily in Colombia. The price differential between vegetable shortening and lard has considerable influence on consumption trends. Colombia's hog raising industry is not capable of meeting more than about half the total requirements of edible fats and normally vegetable shortening can be processed more cheaply from imported copra than lard can be imported. The vegetable shortening factories are expected to increase their output. In 1948, it is probable that vegetable shortening production figures reached 13,200 tons. This would compare with a 1941-45 average of 7,500 tons.

Prices:

The Colombian Government has exercised some control over wholesale prices of vegetable shortening since 1936, and has specified minimum prices that must be paid to producers for raw materials and also fixed minimum standards of amount, quality, and condition of domestic raw materials.

In order to maintain its control over prices, the Government requires the factories to sell half of their monthly output to the National Supply Institute. The quantities are to be distributed in the various parts of the country at cost, plus handling charges, the assumption being that the

competition of these sales with sales through regular wholesale and retail channels will effectively equalize prices to consumers.

Minimum prices for purchase of domestic raw materials have increased less than might be expected during the past 5 years in comparison with prices in world markets. The greatest increase has been for sesame seed which has doubled. The following table, although not a precise annual average for each of the 5 years, does reflect the price trend for each product (U. S. dollar per short ton):

	: 1944	: 1945	: 1946	: 1947	: 1948
Copra	: 191-249	: 305	: 220	: 294	: 278
Cottonseed	: 39	: 47	: 40	: 56	: 56
Sesame	: 155	: 226	: 207	: 234	: 259-310
Palma de Vino	: 203	: 258	: 159	: 195	: 195
Tamaco	: 195	: 136	: 159	: 227	: 225
Noli	: 95	: 94	: 106	: 137	: 137

Wholesale prices for vegetable shortening have been more than doubled since 1945. During 1945 and 1946 these prices fluctuated between \$9.98 and \$11.12 per can of 37.2 pounds. An abrupt increase took place in January 1947 when the price rose to \$15.68 per can. By October 1947 the price was \$17.67 a can, in August 1948, \$22.60, and in November, 1948, \$26.22.

NETHERLANDS INDIES COPRA EXPORTS SHOW GAIN IN 1948 ^{1/}

Copra exports from the Netherlands Indies amounted to 16,180 long tons in December, bringing the total to 238,400 for the calendar year 1948. This figure compares with 150,200 tons in 1947 and 507,400 prewar. As in earlier years, the Netherlands was the principal recipient.

Production totaled 327,900 in 1948 and 176,100 in the previous year. Both production and exports are expected to show improvement during the current year. No copra stocks were reported at the end of December, which would indicate that domestic consumption of coconut oil increased or that unrecorded shipments were unusually large.

^{1/} More extensive statement may be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

NETHERLANDS INDIES: Copra exports, December 1948, with comparisons
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution				
	Average	1947	Jan.-Nov.	December	
	1935-39		1948 a/	1947	1948 a/
Canada.....	-	-	7,196	-	1,124
Mexico.....	12,614	-	-	-	-
United States.....	3,909	1,546	5,734	-	-
Belgium.....	8,053	-	8,018	-	-
Czechoslovakia.....	4,896	5,000	2,000	-	-
Denmark.....	72,375	7,999	4,120	-	-
France.....	12,748	4,000	5,937	4,000	-
Bizonal Germany.....	64,674	-	17,610	-	1,968
Italy.....	23,103	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	133,841	114,157	155,621	11,223	3,819
Norway.....	31,810	5,469	1,000	-	2,000
Poland.....	1,422	-	2,500	-	-
Sweden.....	6,886	3,200	6,000	-	5,670
Switzerland.....	17	2,082	5,500	-	1,000
Singapore.....	107,285	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa..	-	5,249	1,000	-	600
Others.....	23,752	1,525	-	-	-
Total.....	507,385	b/150,227	b/c/222,236	b/15,223	b/16,181

a/ Preliminary. b/ Does not include unrecorded shipments to Singapore.

c/ Revised Copra Board, Batavia.

NETHERLANDS INDIES: Copra exports, September, October,
November 1948 (Revisions)
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution		
	September	October	November
	1948	1948	1948
Canada.....	2,047	-	-
United States.....	2,055	800	-
Belgium.....	3,018	2,000	3,000
Denmark.....	4,120	-	-
France.....	2,000	1,937	-
Bizonal Germany.....	7,999	-	7,611
Netherlands.....	6,111	9,012	12,944
Poland.....	2,500	-	-
Sweden.....	1,000	-	-
Switzerland.....	500	1,000	1,000
Union of South Africa..	-	-	1,000
Total.....	31,350	14,749	25,555

Copra Board, Batavia.

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT SETS
PRICE FOR 1948-49 FLAXSEED

The Uruguayan Government will pay farmers 240 pesos per metric ton (\$3.42 per bushel, converted at the stipulated exchange rate of 1.78 pesos per U.S. dollar) for the 1948-49 flaxseed crop delivered at Montevideo. This price will prevail until June 3, 1949. After that date the price will be based on the International market and farmers will be given the benefit of any increase. Farmers received 330 pesos per ton (\$4.71 per bushel) for flaxseed from the 1947-48 crop. In contrast to the policy in recent years no restrictions are placed on the export of flaxseed, linseed oil, or oilcake.

TOBACCO

HUNGARY'S 1948 TOBACCO ACREAGE AND PRODUCTION
EXCEED PREWAR; IMPORTS AND EXPORTS INCREASE

The 1948 tobacco crop in Hungary was considerably better than that of the previous year, according to a report received from the American Legation in Budapest. The 1948 crop was planted on 47,111 acres, as compared with 40,811 acres in 1947 and an average of 37,000 acres in the prewar period, 1935-39. Production in 1948 is estimated at 50,926,000 pounds, as compared with 35,274,000 pounds in 1947 and a prewar average of 45,872,000 pounds.

The 1948 crop was produced by 38,870 farmers, whereas the 1938 crop was produced by 3,092 farmers. This increase in number of growers is due primarily to the many new small farms created by the Hungarian Land Reform program and reduction of the minimum acres on which tobacco could be grown from 1.42 to .36 acres. This tremendous increase in the number of growers is unfavorable from the point of view of the State Tobacco Monopoly because all growers normally set aside a small quantity of their production for their own use.

There are 10 factories manufacturing tobacco products, 8 tobacco warehouses, 27 collecting stations and 32 modern drying plants operated in Hungary by the Monopoly. In 1947, these 10 factories processed 17,174,000 pounds of domestic and 611,000 pounds of imported tobacco, producing 4.8 billion cigarettes, 24.8 million cigars and 1,962,000 pounds of pipe tobacco.

Hungary's imports and exports of tobacco both increased during 1948. Raw tobacco imports during the first 8 months of 1948 totaled 1,543,000 pounds, as compared with 851,000 pounds in 1947 and the prewar, 1935-39, average of 3,104,000 pounds. In addition it is estimated that 17,600 pounds of cigarettes were imported during 1948. Raw tobacco exports during the first 8 months of 1948 totaled 3,944,000 pounds, as compared with 677,000 pounds in 1947, and the prewar, 1935-39, average of 19,162,000 pounds. During 1948 Bulgaria supplied the majority of imports while most exports went to the Soviet Union. Prior to the war most imports came from Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria; while most exports were to Germany, France, Belgium, and other European countries.

HONG KONG INCREASES IMPORT DUTIES ON TOBACCO

Effective January 6, 1949, the Hong Kong Government has increased the rates of import duty on all unmanufactured and certain manufactured tobaccos, according to a report received from the American Consul in Hong Kong. The rates on cigars and pipe tobaccos remain unchanged.

The changes in import duties shown in Hong Kong currency (U. S. \$1.00 equivalent to HK \$4.00) for tobaccos originating outside British Empire sources are as follows: (1) unstripped tobacco containing 10 percent or more moisture by weight, \$2.25 to \$3.75 per pound; (2) unstripped tobacco containing less than 10 percent moisture by weight, \$2.28 to \$3.78 per pound; (3) stripped tobacco containing 10 percent or more moisture by weight, \$2.40 to \$3.90 per pound; (4) stripped tobacco containing less than 10 percent moisture by weight, \$2.55 to \$4.05 a pound; and (5) cigar ettes, \$4.80 to \$6.00 per pound.

Imports of tobacco of all kinds during the 11 months ended November 1948, were valued at HK \$41.8 millions. Exports were HK \$18.2 millions. About 75 percent of Hong Kong's tobacco comes from the United States, 20 percent from the United Kingdom and the balance from the Philippines, Egypt and Turkey.

ESTIMATES OF 1948-49 TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REDUCED

Latest unofficial forecasts indicate a decided reduction in the 1948-49 Southern African tobacco crop over that of previous estimates, according to a report received from the American Legation, Pretoria, South Africa. Widespread drought in this area and a rather acute shortage of labor are the principal factors contributing to this reduction. Early in October, trade sources forecast that the 1948-49 production of tobacco in the Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland would total approximately 172.7 million pounds. Latest unofficial forecasts, however, now place total production for this area at 147.5 million pounds.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: Tobacco production forecast and production
by selected years.
(1,000 pounds)

Country	Forecast 1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	Average 1935-39
South Africa	43,000	50,521	39,526	23,076
Southern Rhodesia	70,000	79,130	63,639	26,061
Northern Rhodesia	4,500	5,471	4,500	1,635
Nyasaland	30,000	28,600	1/ 29,000	16,311
Total	147,500	163,722	136,665	67,083

1/ Estimated.

The production of flue-cured tobacco, which has been increasing very rapidly in Southern Africa, is now unofficially forecast at 94.5 million pounds for 1948-49. This compares with an earlier forecast of approximately 120 million pounds and the 1947-48 production of 107.5 million pounds.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: Flue-cured tobacco production forecast and
production by selected years
(1,000 pounds)

Country	Forecast 1948-49	1947-48	1946-47	Average 1935-39
South Africa	20,000	24,578	19,700	5,536
Southern Rhodesia	68,000	76,000	57,918	21,633
Northern Rhodesia	4,000	4,300	<u>1/</u> 3,500	<u>1/</u> 1,600
Nyasaland	2,500	2,600	3,000	2,574
Total	94,500	107,478	84,118	31,343

1/ Estimated.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the U.S.
gulf-port average

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		Kantar			
Ashmoundi, Good.....	1-27	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	54.65:	45.60
Ashmoundi, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	52.65:	43.93
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	95.15:	79.39
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	"	"		(not quoted)
<u>Bombay</u>		Candy			
Jarila, Fine.....	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	620.00:	23.86
Broach, Fine.....	"	"	"	650.00:	25.01
Kampala, East African...	"	"	"		(not:available)
<u>Karachi</u>		Maund			
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine....	1-26	82.28 lbs.	"	81.00:	29.70
289F Sind, S.G., Fine....	"	"	"	90.50:	33.18
289 Punjab, S.G., Fine....	"	"	"	99.50:	36.48
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		Metric ton			
Type B.....	1-27	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	a/ 3350.00:	45.24
<u>Lima</u>		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5.....	1-25	101.4 lbs.	Sol		(not:quoted)
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"		(not:quoted)
<u>Recife</u>		Arroba			
Mata, Type 4.....	1-27	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	200.00:	32.90
Sertao, Type 5.....	"	"	"	225.00:	37.02
<u>Sao Paulo</u>					
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	217.00:	35.70
<u>Torreón</u>		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16".....	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	181.50:	26.01
Houston-Galveston-New					
Orleans av. Mid-15/16"...	"	Pound	Cent	XXXX	32.80

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION -- (Continued from Page 71)

of labor and equipment still hamper the operations of cotton farmers. In India any increase in cotton production, despite the need for more cotton to meet domestic demand, will be limited by a continued need for greater food production. In Pakistan production seems still to be retarded in consequence of the disturbances that followed partition.

In China the 1948 crop is more than half a million bales less than the quantity needed by mills and cottage industries this year, but any substantial increase in production appears to await the achievement of peace. Production in Mexico, Argentina, Turkey, and practically all of the cotton-growing areas in Africa is already above or about equal to the prewar average.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, A. W. Palmer, Charles H. Barber, Glenn A. Ruggles, Afif I. Tannous, and Dwight R. Bishop.

WORLD CORN CROP --- (Continued from page 63)

It is too early for definite reports on the size of the corn crop in South America. Prospects are promising, however, and the outlook is for a crop of about 500 million bushels, compared with 575 million during 1935-39. The production indicated would depend on above-average yields, with acreage reported considerably below average. Present prospects are for a crop of about 200 million bushels in Argentina, normally the largest corn producer of the area. The Argentine corn acreage has declined substantially in recent years, and the area harvested, beginning in March, is not expected to be much above 6 million acres, compared with the prewar average of 10.8 million. Acreage in Brazil, the other large producer, is believed to be near the 1935-39 level. Around-average yields on that area would put the harvest near the 1947 figure of 220 million bushels.

Corn production is relatively unimportant in Oceania and the present harvest is expected to be near last year's production of 6.6 million bushels.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of C. M. Purves, Acting Chairman, Robert L. Gastineau, Judith E. Downey, and Constance H. Farnworth.

WORLD DRIED PEACHES -- (Continued from Page 68)

to other countries have been slowly increasing and accounted for 1,185 tons of the 1947-48 total of 1,422 tons. To the end of November 1948, the lead fell to 40 tons compared with 761 tons during the same period a year earlier.

The export prospects for United States dried peaches for the balance of the season are far from those of a normal prewar year. However, it is possible that as the European Recovery Program gets into fuller operation a more plentiful supply to United States dollars will ease the export situation and increase the demand for this item in European countries.

The 1949 harvests in the Southern Hemisphere countries have not yet started and it is much too early to forecast the probable 1949 pack. Present information regarding fresh peach prospects indicates a good crop is anticipated in Argentina with the dried pack expected to be up slightly. The same situation is reported in Chile. In Australia and Union of South Africa the 1949 pack is expected to be about the same as that of 1948.

WORLD DRIED PEARS -- (Continued from Page 70.)

The poor export demand during the 1947-48 season was chiefly responsible for the very small pack in 1948. Export statistics for the 1947-48 season show 43 tons to France, 21 tons to Italy, 12 tons to the Netherlands, and 28 tons to all other European countries. The prewar 1935-39 average exports to European countries totalled 3,080 tons. The averaged prewar export of dried pears to Canada averaged 159 tons compared with only 5 tons during 1947-48. The shortage of dollar exchange available to most foreign countries is chiefly responsible for the small United States exports.

The 1948-49 season exports to all countries to the end of November totals only 102 tons compared with 159 tons for the same period a year earlier. This season's exports for the period show only 2 tons to Switzerland and nothing to other European countries. There were also 2 tons exported to Canada. The remaining 98 tons were to all other countries combined. The continued scarcity of dollar exchange in most European countries is the principal reason for this almost complete lack of export business. There is some easing of the exchange situation in sight which may result in a modest pick-up in foreign demand. The effects of the European Recovery Program have not yet become apparent in the dried fruit field. However it is believed that it will result in some export demand during the balance of the season. The season's total export of dried pears will of course not be great since there is such a small supply this year.